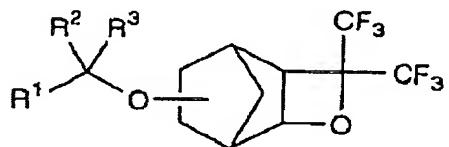


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 6-10, 12, and 13 as follows:

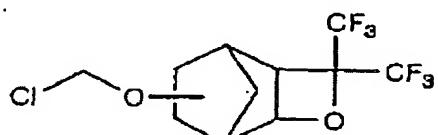
1. (Original) A fluorine-containing cyclic compound represented by general formula (1):



(1)

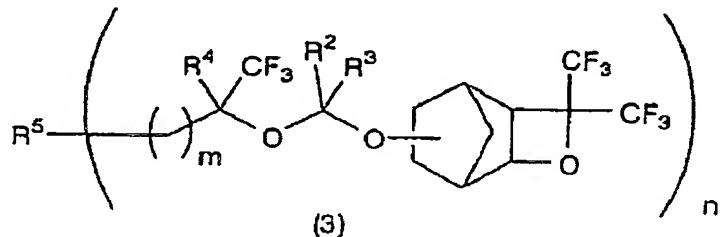
wherein R¹ represents a halogen atom, and R² and R³ each represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom or a sulfur atom, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group.

2. (Original) The fluorine-containing cyclic compound according to claim 1, which is represented by structural formula (2):



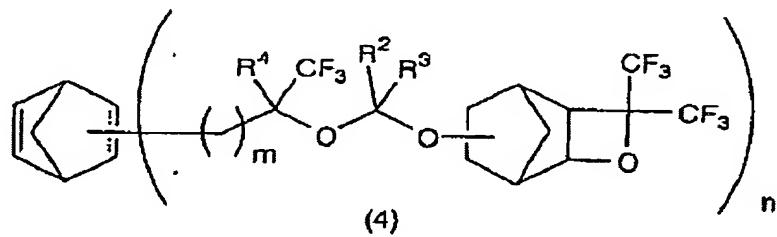
(2)

3. (Currently amended) A fluorine-containing cyclic compound derived from the fluorine-containing cyclic compound according to claim 1 or 2, which is represented by general formula (3):



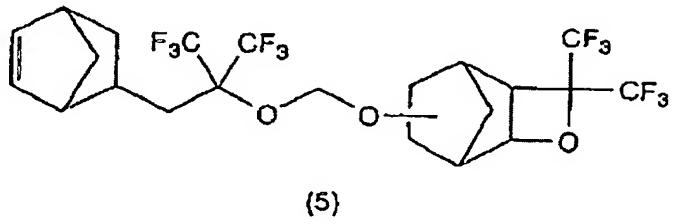
wherein R² and R³ each represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom or a sulfur atom, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; R⁴ and R⁵ each represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom, a carbonyl bond or a double bond, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group, and further, R⁵ may be bonded to any polymer chain; n represents 1 to 5; and m represents 0 to 5.

4. (Currently amended) A fluorine-containing cyclic compound derived from the fluorine-containing cyclic compound according to claim 1 or 2, which is represented by general formula (4):

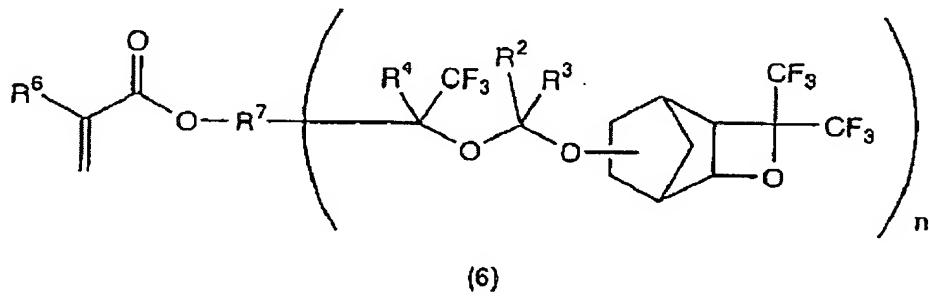


wherein R² and R³ each represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom or a sulfur atom, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; R⁴ represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom or a carbonyl bond, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; n represents 1 to 5; and m represents 0 to 5.

5. (Original) A fluorine-containing cyclic compound represented by structural formula (5):

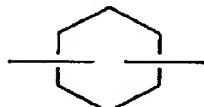
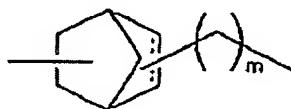


6. (Currently amended) A fluorine-containing cyclic compound derived from the fluorine-containing cyclic compound according to claim 1 or 2, which is represented by general formula (6):

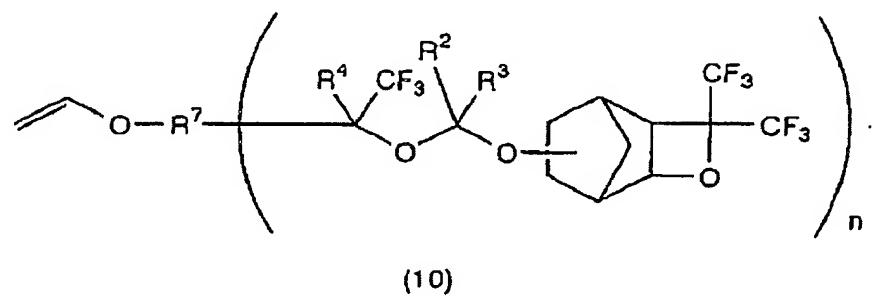


wherein R² and R³ each represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom or a sulfur atom, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; R⁴ represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom or a carbonyl bond, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; R⁶ represents hydrogen, a fluorine atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group or a halogenated alkyl group; n

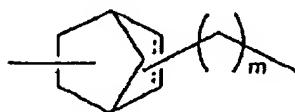
represents 1 to 5; R⁷ is a methylene group, a methine group, or a cyclic hydrocarbon group or aromatic hydrocarbon group represented by structural formulas (7) to (9), which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom or a sulfur atom as a substituent group thereof; and m represents 0 to 5 in structural formula (7).



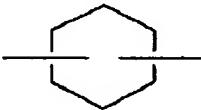
7. (Currently amended) A fluorine-containing cyclic compound derived from the fluorine-containing cyclic compound according to claim 1 or 2, which is represented by general formula (10):



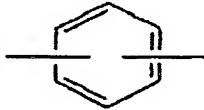
wherein R² and R³ each represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom or a sulfur atom, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; R⁴ represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom or a carbonyl bond, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; n represents 1 to 5; R⁷ is a methylene group, a methine group, or a cyclic hydrocarbon group or aromatic hydrocarbon group represented by structural formula (7) to (9), which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom or a sulfur atom as a substituent group thereof; and m represents 0 to 5 in structural formula (7)[[.]]



(7)

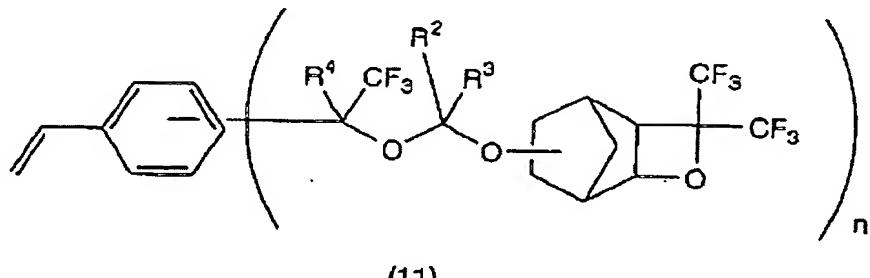


(8)



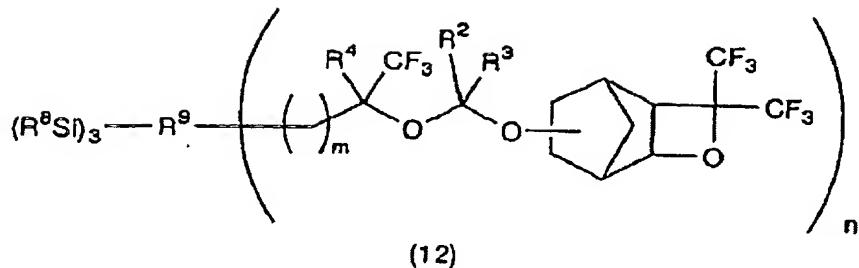
(9)

8. (Currently amended) A fluorine-containing cyclic compound derived from the fluorine-containing cyclic compound according to claim 1 or 2, which is represented by general formula (11):

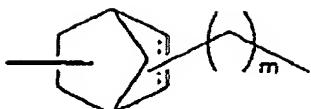


wherein R² and R³ each represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom or a sulfur atom, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; R⁴ represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom or a carbonyl bond, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; n represents 1 to 5.

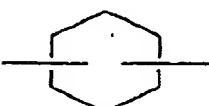
9. (Currently amended) A fluorine-containing cyclic compound derived from the fluorine-containing cyclic compound according to claim 1 or 2, which is represented by general formula (12):



wherein R^2 and R^3 each represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom or a sulfur atom, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; R^4 represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom or a carbonyl bond, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; R^8 represents a halogen atom or an alkoxy group; n represents 1 to 5, and m represents 0 to 5; and R^9 is a cyclic hydrocarbon group represented by structural formulas (7) and (8) or an aromatic hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom or a sulfur atom as a substituent group thereof.

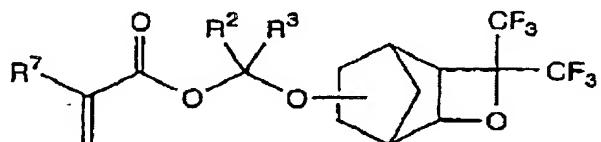


(7)



(8)

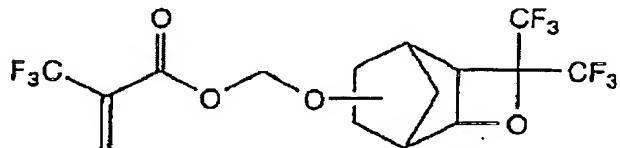
10. (Currently amended) A fluorine-containing cyclic compound derived from the fluorine-containing cyclic compound according to claim 1 or 2, which is represented by general formula (13):



(13)

wherein R² and R³ each represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group, the hydrocarbon group, which may contain a halogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom or a sulfur atom, being a straight-chain, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms or an aromatic hydrocarbon group; and R⁷ represents hydrogen, a fluorine atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group or a halogenated alkyl group.

11. (Original) A fluorine-containing cyclic compound represented by structural formula (14):



(14)

12. (Currently amended) A fluorine-containing polymer compound obtained by polymerization or copolymerization using the fluorine-containing cyclic compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 3 to 11.

13. (Currently amended) A fluorine-containing polymer obtained by reacting a polymer containing one or more functional groups selected from a carboxyl group, a hydroxyl group, a hexafluorocarbinol group, an amino group and a sulfonic acid with the fluorine-containing cyclic compound according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~.

14. (Original) A resist material using the fluorine-containing polymer compound according to claim 12 or 13.

15. (Original) A patterning process using the resist material according to claim 14.